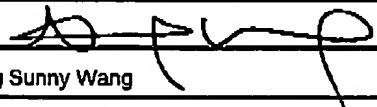
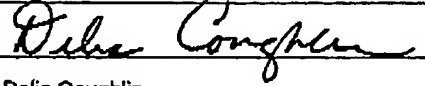


TRANSMITTAL FORM <small>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</small>		Application Number	10/602,927
		Filing Date	June 24, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Jean MERRILL et al.
		Art Unit	1646
		Examiner Name	XIE, Xiaozhen
Total Number of Pages In This Submission	7	Attorney Docket Number	USAV2001/0172 US NP

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Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	sanofi-aventis Inc. LLC		
Signature			
Printed name	Xuhong Sunny Wang		
Date	March 08, 2006	Reg. No.	54,524

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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****RECEIVED
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J. Merrill et al.Examiner: **X. Xie**Art Unit: **1646**Application No.: **10/602,927**Filed: **June 24, 2003**Title: **OSTEOPONTIN,
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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated February 9, 2006, setting forth a requirement for restriction in the above-referenced application, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse and amendment, Group II, claims 7-13. As amended, Claim 7, the independent claim of Group II, depends from Claim 1, the independent claim of Group I. Thus, Groups I and Group II are properly examined together. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Please amend the Claims as set forth in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Please enter and consider the Remarks beginning on page 6 of this paper.